

He had begun to believe in his own immortality. He had plans for rebuilding the Jewish community of Budapest. He could not now abandon the people he had just saved.

So, in a supreme act of courage and recklessness, Wallenberg went looking for the Russian High Command. He found them . . . and at that point his good fortune ran out. His reward for saving up to one hundred thousand lives was not the warm homecoming he had dreamed of. In January 1945 Wallenberg began his long journey into the Soviet Gulag. He never returned.

His precise odyssey is a subject to some speculation and some dispute. Some things regarding his fate are indisputable. He was taken to the Lubyanka . . . the dreaded hell hole that is the KGB's headquarters in Moscow. Wallenberg was accused of being a spy . . . the catchall crime in the paranoid Stalinist state. The Soviets claimed he died of a heart attack two years later. But they never produced a body or a death certificate . . . In my research I interviewed former Gulag inmates who swore Wallenberg was alive through the Fifties, Sixties and even Seventies. The trail has gone cold in the last decade . . . and no one can wish this man such a long ordeal at the hands of his captors.

The injustice of this story is almost too much to bear . . . For Raoul Wallenberg had stood up to the two greatest evils of our Century . . . the Nazis and the Communists. He proved that one man acting fearlessly and with great imagination could make the brutes back off.

In a way, Wallenberg's story is a terrible reminder of the world's cowardice. How many people, how many countries, pleaded that there was nothing to be done. Hitler had power and numbers on his side. Wallenberg made liars of them all.

After the last few years of intimate contact with the savage ethnic wars of the Balkans . . . from Bosnia to Kosovo . . . to Rwanda . . . I have seen how quickly demagogues . . . from Hitler to Milosevic . . . can fan the flames of nationalism and hatred among their people . . . turning former neighbors into murderous enemies.

I hear so often in my prosperous, privileged country the question raised, "Why should we get involved in other's problems? Why should we risk our lives to stop genocidal warfare in another country, another continent?" I have a single word answer to those who say, "Let them take care of themselves. There is nothing to be done. It is inevitable." My answer is: Wallenberg.

TRIBUTE TO HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBER DOUGLAS H. NECESSARY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Douglas H. Necessary, on the occasion of his retirement from the House Armed Services Committee staff after more than 15 years. He will be greatly missed by Members and staff alike.

Doug began his public service in the U.S. Army where he distinguished himself over a 20-year career. He rose from the enlisted ranks, received his commission, and was highly decorated during two combat tours in Vietnam as an infantry officer and retired as a lieutenant colonel. While in the Army, Doug also earned a Bachelor of Science degree

from Auburn University and a Master of Arts degree from the Florida Institute of Technology.

Doug's accomplishments on the committee are numerous. He came to the House Armed Services Committee in October 1984, bringing skills that were especially useful in the areas of military procurement, acquisition reform, and research and development. Since 1993, Doug has served as the lead staff person responsible for those issues while working for both the full committee and for the Ranking Minority Member. Doug guided two legislative initiatives, the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 and the Clinger/Cohen Federal Acquisition Reform Act of 1996, that were landmark efforts to modernize and rectify a severely troubled military procurement process. Doug also pioneered efforts, in concert with Chairman Ron Dellums (D-CA), to better develop the Department of Defense's Small and Disadvantaged Business initiatives, particularly the Mentor-Protégé program.

Doug had a profound effect on the procurement of all of the Department of Defense's major weapons programs. At various times, he was the committee's staff person in charge of each of the services procurement programs, before becoming the lead staff with responsibility for all of the Department's programs. Doug became the ultimate expert on complex systems such as Ballistic Missile Defense, Theater Missile Defense, the V-22 Osprey, the B-2 bomber, the C-17, the F/A-18, and many others. His expertise was recognized not only by the Members of the House, but was also highly regarded by senior officials in the Department of Defense. His decisions about hardware programs were frequently guided by the awareness that the programs would result in weapons systems that would have to be used by real people, and he brought that kind of common sense approach to all of the issues he worked.

Doug has always integrated the depth of his factual knowledge with a keen sense of the realities that existed in the political and fiscal environment of the time. His advice allowed Members to understand what was important and what was possible. Because we knew what options existed, we were able to significantly advance our legislative initiatives. His work was always thorough and unbiased, and he had a unique knack for being able to explain complex and arcane subjects to novices and experts alike.

Perhaps the hallmark of Doug's career on the Hill was that he never lost sight of the ultimate goals of good government and sound national security policies. Good stewardship of the taxpayers' dollars and doing what was in America's best interests were always the guiding principles in his work. There is no doubt that the country is better off because of his extraordinary efforts.

I know I speak for countless members and staff when I thank Doug Necessary for his outstanding service to the country, to the House of Representatives, and to the Armed Services Committee. His expertise, his honesty, his friendliness, his availability, and perhaps especially his sense of humor, will be sorely missed. We wish Doug well as he moves on to the next phase of his life, knowing that he will make a difference for the better wherever he goes.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. HILBRICH AND WILLIAM J. BORAH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, It is with great pride and honor that I commend Mr. John F. Hilbrich and Mr. William J. Borah for their extraordinary service to their Northwest Indiana and Illinois communities. On Wednesday, March 15, 2000, these men will be honored at the 2000 Legal Community Recognition dinner, a benefit for the Calumet Council, Boy Scouts of America. This event, chaired by David E. Wickland, will be held at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, IN.

John Francis Hilbrich, a northwest Indiana native, has dedicated his life to serving his community and his country. After completing his undergraduate work cum laude at the University of Notre Dame, he enrolled in their distinguished law program which he successfully completed in 1951. Mr. Hilbrich was admitted to the bar later that year. He went on to serve in the U.S. Army as a Counter-Intelligence Special Agent from 1951-53. He later became the Lake County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney as well as a member of the Diocesan Council, Roman Catholic Diocese of Gary. Mr. Hilbrich is currently a partner at the Hilbrich, Cunningham, and Schwerd law firm in Portage, IN.

In addition to his impressive career achievements, John Hilbrich has always used his skills to improve his community. He is a charter member on the Board of Directors for the Lake County Bar Association. Mr. Hilbrich is also a member of the Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law section of the Indiana Bar Association. He is a proud member of the National Diocesan Attorney Association and a Regional Director for Bank One.

William J. Borah was born and raised in Calumet City, IL. In 1971, he graduated with a bachelors degree in history from Christian Brothers University in Memphis, TN. He subsequently attended the University of Saint Louis, where he earned his education administration degree as well as a masters degree in history. He went on to receive his Juris Doctor from the University of Memphis School of Law in 1982.

In addition to owning his own law firm where he performs a multitude of tasks, Mr. Borah has taken an active interest in helping youth. He taught History at St. Louis High School from 1971-76, where he received the Superb Teacher Award. From 1976-79 he served as the Dean of Instruction at Frontier Community College in Fairfield, IL. In addition to carrying a full course schedule during his law school years, Mr. Borah served as a Dorm Director at Christian Brothers University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending John F. Hilbrich and William J. Borah for their lifetime commitment to service in Northwest Indiana and Illinois, respectively. Our communities have greatly benefited from their selflessness and dedication.